Claims

1. The use of an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a peptide which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the following group:

i) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence presented in figure 6;

ii) a nucleic acid molecule as represented by the sequence presented in figure 6 which has been modified by addition, deletion or substitution of at least one nucleotide base within at least one codon to encode a variant peptide which has anti-angiogenic activity;

iii) a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the sequence in (i) or (ii); and

iv) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the sequences identified in (i)-(iii); for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of diseases or conditions which would benefit from an inhibition angiogenesis.

2. Use of a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence ARYYSALRHYINLITRQRT, or a variant amino acid sequence that has been modified by addition, deletion or substitution of at least one amino acid residue, for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of diseases or conditions which would benefit from the inhibition of angiogenesis.

3. Use according to Claim 2 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of: cancer; psoriasis; neovascular glaucoma; rheumatoid arthritis; diabetic retinopathy.

4. Use according to Claim 3 wherein said disease is cancer.

5. Use according to Claim 2 wherein said disease in psoriasis.

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6. Use according to Claim 5 wherein said psoriatic condition is selected from the group consisting of: nail psoriasis; scalp psoriasis; plaque psoriasis; pustular psoriasis; guttate psoriasis; inverse psoriasis; erythrodermic psoriasis; psoriatic arthritis.

7. Use according to any of Claims 2-6 wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence, or part thereof, consisting of the amino acid sequence ARYYSALRHYINLITRQRT.

8. Use according to Claim 7 wherein said peptide is a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence ARYYSALRHYINLITRQRT.

9. Use according to any of Claims 2-8 wherein said peptide is a fragment of the peptide ARYYSALRHYINLITRQRT.

10. Use according to any of Claims 2-9 wherein said peptide is acetylated.

11. Use according to Claim 10 wherein said acetylation is to the amino terminus of said peptide.

12. Use according to any of Claims 2-11 wherein said peptide is amidated.

13. Use according to Claim 12 wherein said amidation is to the carboxyl-terminus of said peptide.

14. Use according to any of Claims 2-9 wherein said peptide, or fragment thereof, is modified by both acetylation and amidation.

15. Use according to any of Claims 2-14 wherein said peptide is modified by cyclisation.

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16. An agent comprising two or more peptides according to any of Claims 2-15 wherein said agent is for use as a pharmaceutical agent.

17. An agent according to Claim 16 wherein said two or more peptides are linked by a linker molecule.

18. An agent according to Claim 16 or 17 wherein said agent comprises a plurality of peptides.

19. An agent according to Claim 18 wherein said agent comprises 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 peptides linked together as an oligomeric peptide.

20. An agent according to Claim 18 or 19 wherein said peptide has greater than 10 peptides.

21. An agent according to Claim 16 or 17 wherein said agent is a dimer of two peptides.

22. An agent according to any of Claims 16-21 wherein said linker is a peptide linking molecule.

23. An agent according to Claim 22 wherein said peptide linking molecule comprises at least one amino acid residue which links at least two peptides.

24. An agent according to Claim 22 or 23 wherein said peptide linking molecule comprises at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 amino acid residues.

25. An agent according to Claim 24 wherein said linking molecule comprises more than 10 amino acid residues.

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26. An agent according to any of Claims 16-25 wherein said agent is a fusion protein comprising an inframe translational fusion.

27. The use of an agent according to any of Claims 16-26 for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of diseases or conditions that would benefit from an inhibition of angiogenesis.

28. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent according to any of Claims 16-26.

29. A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a peptide and/or agent according to any of Claims 2-26.

30. A cell transformed/transfected with a nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 or a vector according to Claim 29.

31. A non-human, transgenic animal characterised in that said animal incorporates a nucleic acid molecule encoding a peptide and/or agent according to any of Claims 2-26.

32. A combined preparation comprising a peptide/agent according to any of Claims 2-26 and at least one cytotoxic agent.

33. A combined preparation comprising a peptide/agent according to any of Claims 2-26 and at least one anti-angiogenic agent.

34. A method to treat an animal that would benefit from inhibition of angiogenesis comprising:

i) administering an effective amount of an agent comprising a peptide/agent according to any of Claims 2-26, to an animal to be treated;

ii). monitoring the effects of said agent on the inhibition of angiogenesis.

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35. A method according to Claim 34 wherein said treatment is the inhibition of tumour development.

36. A method according to Claim 34 or 35 wherein said agent is a nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 or a vector according to Claim 29.

37. An imaging agent comprising a peptide/agent according to any of Claims 2-26.

38. A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence ARYYSALRHYINLITRQRT, or a variant peptide wherein said sequence is modified by deletion or substitution of at least one amino acid residue, for use as a pharmaceutical agent.

39. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide according to Claim 38.

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